

What is claimed is:

1. A topical composition to improve skin condition, comprising: an effective amount of benfotiamine, and a carrier.
2. The topical composition of claim 1, wherein the carrier comprises lecithin.
3. The topical composition of claim 1, further comprising at least one adjunct ingredient selected from the group consisting of a lipoic acid, an α -hydroxy acid, a fatty acid ester of ascorbic acid, and mixtures of any of these.
4. The topical composition of claim 1, wherein the composition contains from about .05% to about 70% by weight benfotiamine.
5. The topical composition of claim 1, wherein the composition contains from about 35% to about 70% by weight benfotiamine.
6. The topical composition of claim 1, wherein the composition contains from about 20% to about 35% by weight benfotiamine.
7. The topical composition of claim 1, wherein the composition contains from about 5% to about 20% by weight benfotiamine.
8. The topical composition of claim 1, wherein the composition contains from about .05% to about 5% by weight benfotiamine.
9. The topical composition of claim 1, wherein the composition contains from about .25% to about 7% by weight benfotiamine.
10. A method for the prevention of skin damage comprising: applying a composition containing benfotiamine in a dermatologically acceptable carrier to skin tissue.

11. A method for the treatment of skin damage comprising: applying a composition containing benfotiamine in a dermatologically acceptable carrier to skin tissue.

12. A method for the prevention of skin aging comprising: applying a composition containing benfotiamine in a dermatologically acceptable carrier to skin tissue.

13. A method for the treatment of skin aging comprising: applying a composition containing benfotiamine in a dermatologically acceptable carrier to skin tissue.

14. A method in accordance with claims 10, 11, 12, or 13 wherein said composition further comprises one or more additional ingredients selected from the group consisting of: ascorbic acid and ascorbic acid derivatives; lipoic acid; α -hydroxy acids; and tocotrienols and tocotrienol derivatives and vitamin E compositions enriched with tocotrienols or tocotrienol derivatives.

15. A method in accordance with claims 10, 11, 12, or 13, wherein the composition contains from about .05% to about 70% by weight benfotiamine.

16. A method in accordance with claim 15, wherein the composition contains from about 5% to about 20% by weight benfotiamine.

17. A method in accordance with claim 15, wherein the composition contains from about .05% to about 5% by weight benfotiamine.

18. A method in accordance with claim 15, wherein the composition contains from about .25% to about 7% by weight benfotiamine.

19. A topical composition to improve skin condition, comprising: an effective amount of an allithiamine, and a carrier.

20. The topical composition of claim 19, wherein the allithiamine consists of benfotiamine.

21. A method for the prevention of skin aging comprising: applying a composition containing allithiamine in a dermatologically acceptable carrier to skin tissue.

22. A method for the treatment of skin aging comprising: applying a composition containing allithiamine in a dermatologically acceptable carrier to skin tissue.

23. A method in accordance with claims 21 or 22, wherein the allithiamine consists of benfotiamine.